REMARKS

Claims 27 and 30 were canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application involving those claims. Claims 25 and 28 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the Specification, including the Detailed Description. No new matter has been added.

Claims 25, 26, 28, and 29 are now pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this amendment.

Claims 25 and 28 were objected to for missing a parentheses after the " x_i " in the equation. The parentheses has been added – with no new matter being added. Applicants thank the Examiner for finding the typographical error. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 25 and 28, as well as claims 26 and 29, are allowable, and request that the objections be withdrawn.

Claims 27 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 27 and 30 were cancelled here but may be brought in a continuation application.

CONCLUSION

In view of all of the above, it is believed that objections and/or rejections to the claims have been obviated, and that all currently pending claims 25, 26, 28, and 29 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that any objections and/or rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 1 lc 7, 2004

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